

COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REQUEST

1. Project Title: West Pointe a la Hache Coastal Marsh and Ridge Restoration
Using Mississippi River Sediment Delivered Via Pipelines
2. Entity Nominating Project: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
3. Contact Information: Kerry St. Pé
and Susan Testroet-Bergeron
BTNEP
P. O. Box 2663
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Thibodaux, LA 70310
4. Total CIAP Funds Requested: \$ 49 Million
5. Infrastructure Funds Proposed: \$0
6. Description and Location of Project:

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) proposes coastal marsh and ridge restoration in Plaquemines Parish near the back marsh of West Pointe a la Hache. The area of land proposed for restoration lies south and east of Lake Hermitage also sometimes called Lake Judge Perez and north of the nearby pipeline canal. The degraded landmass for proposed restoration lies between the back levee near Grand Bayou which runs from Point Celeste, Woodland, and near West Pointe a la Hache to the nearby pipeline canal up to Bayou Grande Cheniere. Using the USGS Pointe a la Hache quadrangle map, this is an irregular shaped polygon that is approximately 1.5 miles across the southern border, 1.25 miles across the western border, approximately 2 miles across the eastern border (which will be adjacent to the back levee) and approximately 1 mile at the northern border near a drainage canal.

The goal of the project is to recreate approximately 1450 acres of marsh and ridge habitat in the area just west of the Jefferson Lake Canal by harvesting sediment from the Mississippi River and pumping it via pipeline to the proposed site. Design features of this project are: a permanent sediment trap in the Mississippi River from which sediments will be harvested for this and future projects, a permanent pipeline that could be used for future projects, marsh and containment areas with dikes. We also seek to have permanent land rights where the pipelines are to be placed, as there appears to be a few number of landowners and no oyster leases in the area.

The site is located near the approved planned discovery-interpretive center along Hwy 23 at West Pointe a la Hache. This center is designed to teach people about the restoration efforts in Louisiana. Mr. Foster Creppelle, manager of Woodland Plantation and discovery center project manager, has already received approval from the Plaquemines Parish government for the interpretive center; Kerry St. Pé has been asked to serve on the advisory panel for the center and the BTNEP will be working with the planning committee of the educational interpretive center. Through its active



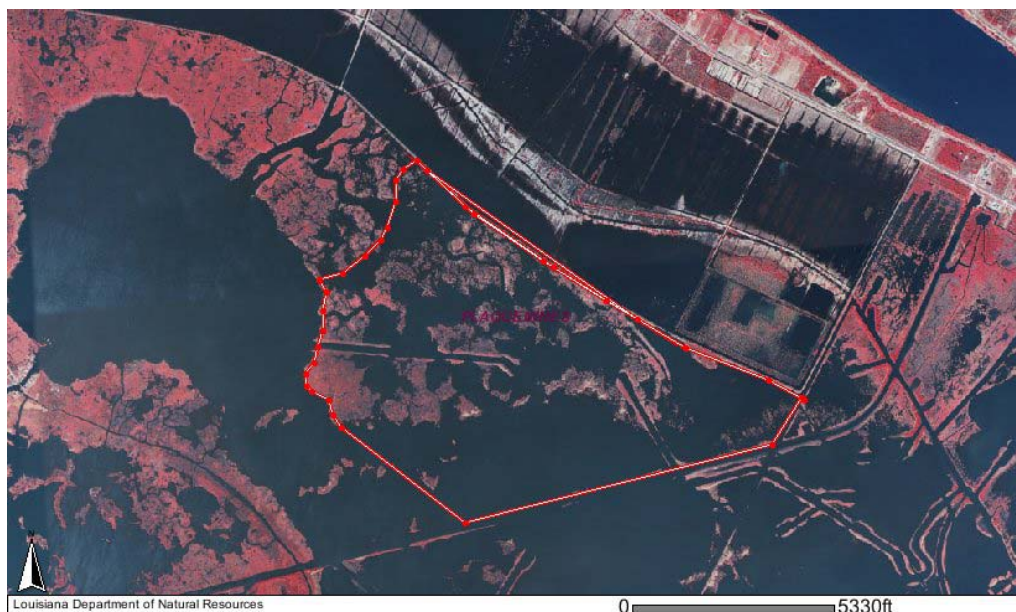
volunteer and education programs the BTNEP will use this coastal restoration project as a learning resource for a wide variety of audiences. This restoration project will not only provide habitat and ecological restoration to the area, it will also be a gateway that will connect people to coastal restoration in a meaningful way.

This project will serve as an effective, immediately implementable, model restoration strategy for restoring and protecting the coastal areas of Plaquemines Parish. Once sediment is mined from the bottom of the Mississippi River, a long-term sediment trap will be created. This sediment trap will be a permanent tool to facilitate the harvest and transport of sediment into other areas of the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary, helping to make pipeline sediment delivery a sustainable strategy.

This concept was proposed to the BTNEP Management Conference in March 2006 during a presentation to discuss alternative restoration strategies to the Third Delta Conveyance Channel. The Management Conference requested that a legislative resolution be prepared to demonstrate support of Pipeline Sediment Delivery (PSD) as a major coastal restoration strategy. This came after a resolution passed in January 2006 by the Plaquemines Parish government stating its support of PSD. Plaquemines Parish highly supports this project. BTNEP has also contacted CononcoPhillips, a major landowner in the area, and they are also in support of the project. Shell Pipeline and Oil Company have also expressed interest in partnering on the project. BTNEP will be contacting members of its Management Conference and other partners to secure additional support for the project.

An additional benefit to choosing this location is that there is a State owned siphon at West Point a la Hache that will help maintain and nourish the project area by reintroducing fresh water to the area.

Using the DNR program SONRIS, the following is a map of the proposed restoration area:



7. Project Type:

- Conservation, restoration and protection of coastal area, including wetland
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources
- Planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with this section
- Implementation of federally approved comprehensive conservation management plan (CCMP)

BTNEP CCMP includes the following topics related to this project:

- common ground solutions and decision making
- beneficial use of dredged material
- marsh management
- shoreline stabilization and induced deposition
- protection of habitat for migratory and resident birds
- new technology research and development
- citizen involvement
- fostering eco-tourism opportunities
- public information and education
 - legislative education
 - continuing and informal education programs

8. Project Justification:

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and its Management Conference has long recognized the need for aggressive coastal restoration strategies to rebuild Louisiana's vanishing wetlands. This project will demonstrate on a small scale what can be accomplished with a comprehensive pipeline sediment delivery strategy on a coast-wide scale. This proposed project will build new marsh and ridge habitat and provide additional hurricane protection to areas north and east of the marsh or to New Orleans and upper Plaquemines Parish.

Additionally, the new marsh and ridge area will provide coastal habitat for plants and animals that once lived in the area. It will also sustain and provide protection for inland fisheries and related industries.

It should be noted that this area is being studied through the CWPPRA program. The CWPPRA project is called the "Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation." The CWPPRA project proposes to use river sediments and terracing to create 438 acres of marsh. In early 2006, this project was approved by the CWPPRA Task Force for Phase 1 funding.

Plaquemines Parish, along with all the other coastal parishes in Louisiana, have supported the oil and gas industry through access canals, pipeline canals, oil tank farms, boat docks and slips. This restoration project not only mitigates some of these impacts but it will also play an active role in protecting the current oil and gas infrastructure and people who work in support of this industry. By protecting the people, places, and infrastructure of this vitally productive region, this project will serve to insure the viability of this important revenue stream for Louisiana's economy.